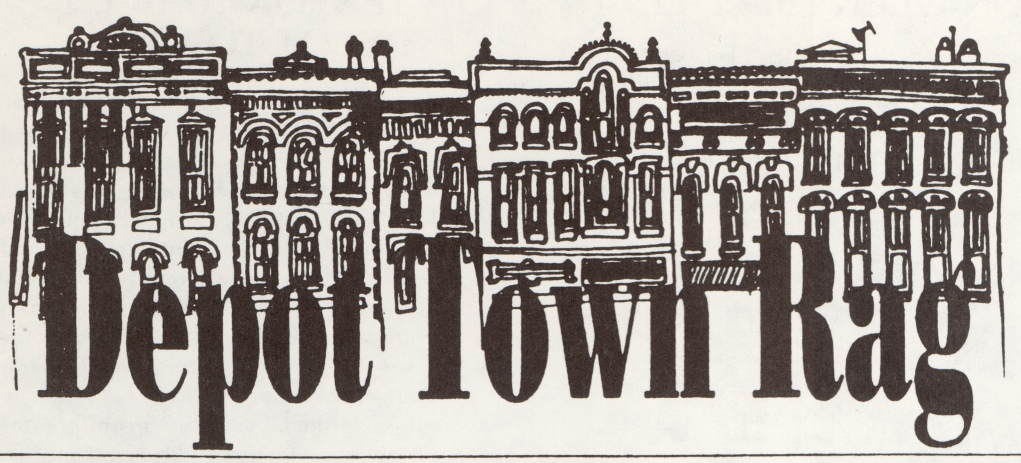

FREE 100% BAG CONTENT

THURSDAY MEETINGS IN MAY:

DDA	4th	7:30 P.M.
Association	18th	7:30 P.M.
Foundation	25th	8:00 P.M.

...in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Railyard removed:

CABOOSE CUT OFF FROM AMTRAK

There are a few Depot Towners still complaining about the railroad not keeping up with "progress" in our town, but last month saw the Conrail crew dismantling the sidings on both sides of the freight house. They have stood unused since the installation of the hundred-year-old DTA Caboose and the company must have given up on waiting for new revenue from those sidings.

Two years ago, the block saw a plan for "Depot Town II", a development of commercial spaces in rehabilitated rail cars of both freight and passenger configurations. That plan, too, was derailed.

In last month's work, the iron track was removed first, then the rotting ties. Now the space is being leveled and, when someone decides who owns the land - the railroad or the city - it may be planted with rye and used as one of the few green spaces in the neighborhood. Early engine club exhibitors have suggested this space for their show at August's Heritage Festival. You can bet that this prime space will not stand empty for very long. Just don't plan to park your private rail car in Depot Town anymore. You're a few years too late to accomplish that dream.

ALL ABOARD FOR RAILROAD DAYS TRIP

Only a few train tickets are left for the May 5th Depot Town - Wyandotte - Durand trip – at $45. ea. Call 482-6371 at once.

LAST CHANCE FOR STEAM TICKETS

...but there's still time to reserve a place on the Steamboat Trip. See page 5.

W.E.M.U. + D.T.A. + ARK = FROG ISLAND!

BULLETIN: WEMU Public Radio Station and the Depot Town Association have created a partnership with Ann Arbor's Ark Coffee House. The Frog Island Tent JAZZ Festival on Saturday, June 22, sponsored by WEMU/DTA, will be followed on Sunday, June 23, by a Folk Music Festival sponsored by the Ark. This promises to be a really exciting weekend for all kinds of music lovers. Watch for early ticket sales for each of these spectacular events in Depot Town.

DOWN BY THE OLD CHOCOLATE-CHIP STREAM

One day the mayor of an East Coast city calls in a top aide and asks: "What do we do with the old slaugherhouse now that the sausage company's left town?"

"Well," says the aide, "I assume we turn it into shops, theaters and restaurants."

"Of course," says the mayor. "Just like the old rendering plant and the old sawmill."

In six months the place is opened as a complex of shops, theaters and restaurants called The Abattoir, and thousands of people go there who wouldn't be caught dead in a slaughterhouse or a suburban mall.

After that the mayor doesn't have to call on his aides anymore. When the question comes up of what is to be done with the old trestle bridge, the old waterworks or any other depressing old structure, he gets on the phone with the bankers, and together they say: "Shops, theaters and restaurants!"

One morning the mayor's secretary bursts into his office: "The people down at The Old Concrete Sewer Pipe Factory say four new cookie shops have appeared there in the last 24 hours and two more are sprouting. They're displacing all the other shops - also the theaters and restaurants."

In fact, it soon becomes apparent that this is happening all up and down the East Coast, wherever cities have converted old steambaths, stables, railroad roundhouses, fish-packing plants, shipyards, smokestacks, shantytowns and the sheltered areas under highway bridges into shops, theaters and restaurants. All are discovering that the next stage is that everything turns into cookie shops.

A group of mayors assembles in Newark, which had been converted into a convention center, and a professor of urban entropy from Harvard expains the phenomenon.

"When you fill up grimy old structures that once served a useful purpose with shops, theaters and restaurants, they tend to become absurdly overspecialized – like four stores each selling a different color of pasta, or a restaurant that serves only zucchini. These places are susceptable to being swept away by the slightest change in consumer taste, and when that happens the cookie shops, being rather hardy, move in and take over."

The end result, of course, is a chocolate chip cookie extending roughly from North Carolina to New England and from the Appalachians to the Atlantic. Don't say you weren't warned.

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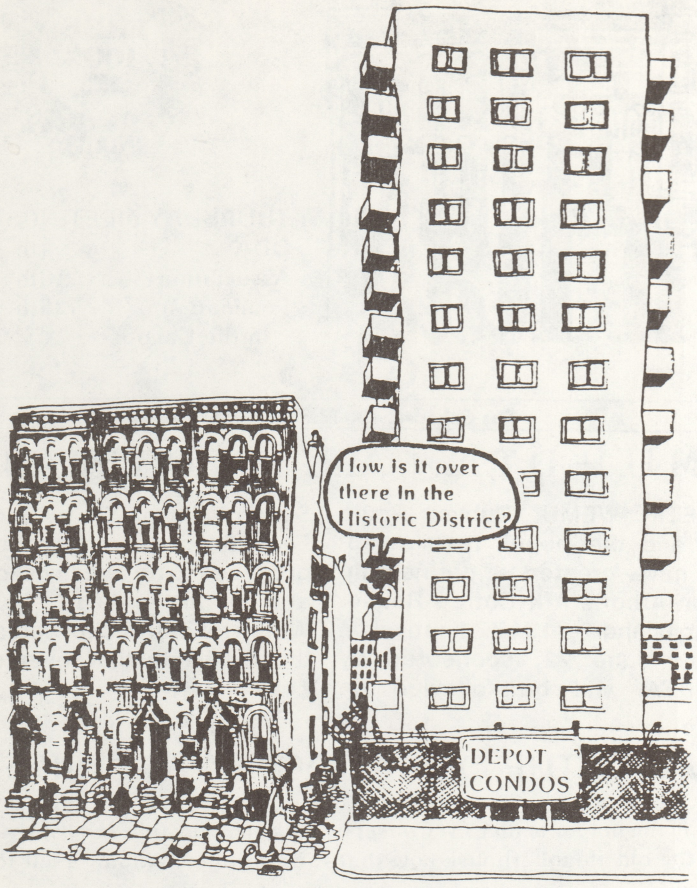
HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK - MAY 12 - 18



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A TESTIMONIAL TO DEPOT TOWN

Depot Town is a joy. I don't live in the neighborhood but I find excuses to go there. If I'm headed towards the opposite side of town I drive through. It's like an old friend. I always brighten up at the thought of this pleasant street. I buy flowers for my wife there. I get my hair cut there. I pick up the paper there. People who know about Depot Town share a special secret: intimate knowledge about a peculiar mystery. "Man, it's really changed," we say. From planters to caboose, festivals to farm market, Depot Town is a joy we all share.

Randy Parkes

DEPOT TOWNE (sic) ANTIQUE AND COLLECTABLES SHOW

J.K. Promotions announces their "Antiques and Collectables Show" on the first Sunday of each month, May through November, from 8 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. at the Depot Town Freight House. Admission is free, so is the parking. And so is the cute spelling. Food and refreshments will be served in the Coffee Shop. J.K. promises exhibit space for up to 90 dealers. For more infomation contact J.K. Promotions: (313) 656-7356, 4995 Ziegler, Dearborn Hgts, MI 48125.

Aubree's
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
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IKE'S
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TOWN
BARBER
SHOP
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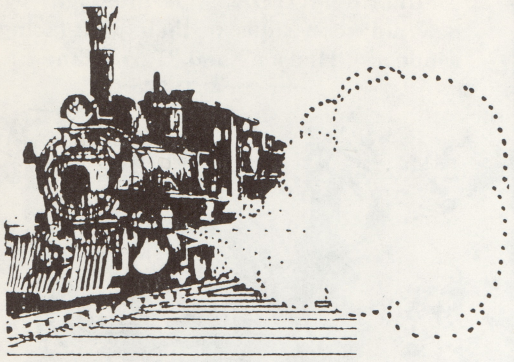
Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS
NEEDLECRAFT
FRAMING OF OBJECTS
ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE
Delicatessen and Catering
In Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Receptions

GOLDEN AGE SHOWCASE
15 E. Cross
Handmade Gifts Created by Seniors



LETTING OFF STEAM

SATURDAY COFFEE SHOP MUSIC

Our family has faithfully treked to the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings for the past five or six years. We have witnessed various food and craft booths come and go in feast and famine fashion through each of Michigan's four flamboyant seasons. We've also witnessed both aborted and successful changes in the environment.

Interestingly it has not been the number of booths, inside or out, or any massive changes in structure of environment that has kept our footsteps tracing the familiar path over the railroad tracks and into the freight house on Saturday mornings. What then you ask? Well, the "what" can best be described as the ambiance – the atmosphere. That special SOMETHING that you not only see, but feel. A major part of that special something, that ambiance at the market is the "who": the smiling woman who bounces around the coffee shop tending coffee pots and pot bellied stoves coos over children and cares about the aches and pains, joys and sorrows of the folks who wander in and "sit for a spell." It is the "doughnut man," his polite young son and personable daughter sprinkling cinnamon sugar over a bag of fresh hot mini-doughnuts and asking you how your day is going. It's the new people you meet as your syhness breaks down bit by bit, week by week and you too learn to "sit for a spell" and meet your neighbors.

It's the faithful vendors - the egg lady and vegetable folks - who are ALWAYS THERE no matter the season or the weather it brings. As if that were ot enough, there has been the "icing on the cake" for perfect ambiance - MUSIC! Not canned music, department store variety. Not boomer-box radio music. LIVE music. LIVE folks that talk to you, learn your favorite songs, know your kids names, and warm your hearts and liven your conversation with down-home music!

The Pied Piper of Farmers' Market has been the faithful Ken Croff. He came alone at first, several years ago, and was never so selfish as not to share the song fest with whoever else showed up with instruments and voices. No one ever doubted Ken's love for people first and music such a close runner-up that they just seemed to melt together. THAT is what kept our feet on the right path every Saturday morning: we knew Ken would be there and we could just sit back, relax and visit with the multitude of folks who came in, and stayed, FOR THE EXACT SAME REASON...the music and the fellowship. Over the years Ken's group sorted itself out to some regulars and became COUNTRY KEN AND COUSIN LINDA with one or two sometimes joining in. One thing we could always count on - if Ken and group were not on stage, neither was the crowd. It is dead. Folks just are not sitting for a spell.

There have been some good and some off-the-wall ideas of what the market "ought to be like" over the past few years. Some of the changes have been profitable ones such as adding booths, craft shows, garage sales and food preparation, demonstrations. These have met the various needs and interests of people in our area. No one, however, seems to have the capacity to understand what the COFFEE SHOP "ought to be like." The simplest things too often are those that confound folks. A wise business person NEVER argues with increased numbers of people frequenting his market place (or hers, in some cases). However, when the numbers dwindle to a mere two or three – more than a brow winkle is experienced.

The COFFEE SHOP in the eyes and hearts of those who shop at the market "ought to be" what it has developed into over the years in spite of an awful lot of meddling from insiders and outsiders — the warm, friendly spot to sip a cup, sing a song, and talk (or listen) a lot — all to the tune of music from those we know and love.

The recent loss of COUNTRY KEN AND COUSIN LINDA'S appearances at the COFFEE SHOW has more than taken it's toll on shoppers spirits. Just take a look (if you can stand it) at the dismal lack of folks just "sitting for a spell." A full house with merry music certainly is worth more to the overall business at the Market than the deadly empty shell it has been the past few weeks. At no point is our years of sitting for long lengths of time in the COFFEE SHOP did anyone ever take a poll to see if the "noise of the music" was about to drive us out. It is a total mystery to me. All one has to do was see that people were STAYING, not leaving. If more people stay than leave, one must, it seems, believe in the law of averages. That is if one know's much about business.

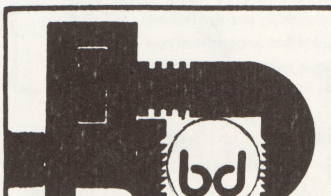
Ken Croff has been the only person faithful to the PEOPLE WHO FREQUENT THE MAKET. He did not have to be invited...and then not show up as has far too many other groups. Dependability has led to tradition. Ken is a tradition at the market. It saddens and angers me to see this level of care and committment rewarded with indifference, and I believe a less than subtle nudge out the door. As for myself and my family — the loss of ambiance equals loss of interest equals loss of business for the market. I always made a couple of trips through the booths when I was just "sitting for a spell." That should be something to think about, should it not, my friends of the Farmers' Market?

Frances Crawford,

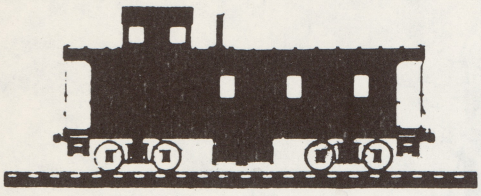
River Street Resident

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

Stop By!
Ypsilanti's Farmers Market
in historic Depot Town
Weds & Sat 8 - 2
- Quality Market Goods
- Craft Shows
- Trackside Coffee Shop
- Monthly Freight House Events
- Exhibits



B & D RETAIL PLUMBING and HEATING, INC.
Richard C. Laflin
310 N. River - 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



D.T.A. 18 APRIL 1985

President McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Caboose. The minutes were read and approved.

TREASURY: The Winter Jazz Series grossed $5620.00 divided equally with WEMU. DTA's half showed a 8% return on its investment. Total funds in the treasury: $4772.87. General Fund: $955.28. Special Events: $6174.33. Rag: $333.48. Jazz: $2809.78. **The billboard collections are lagging and the treasurer has borrowed $775.00 from the General Fund to meet that obligation.** The "initial charge" for the billboard printing came before the monthly billings. President McKeever will meet with billboard promoters to help implement and regulate monthly payments for this promotion.

RAG REPORT: The May issue will include a guest editorial from THE WASHINGTON POST. Ad payments are again due. Late payments are deffering the printing of the Directory which was due to come out this month. Only paid up ads will continue with the June issue.

JAZZ: $1309.78 was transferred to the General Fund and $1500.00 retained as seed money for the June 22nd Frog Island Festival. Ann Arbor's Ark will sponsor the Sunday, June 23 portion of the Festival with nationally-known folk artists and will share expenses with DTA. Tickets and posters are set. Liquor liability has increased nearly 100%. Electricity is in place and DTA will co-op on many of the volunteer committees with Ark staffers and volunteers. Full-time security will be provided Friday and Saturday. Fewer volunteers are necessitating more paid professional help for equipment, stage management, security. DTA's Saturday, June 22 program will see the return of Lyman Woodard, the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band and many other popular jazz artists.

DTA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER is set for Sunday April 21 at Aubree's Second Floor with about fifty people in attendance for a presentation by past presidents, Mayor Murdock, State Senator Lana Pollack, and awards to YPSILANTI PRESS photographer Dennis Dunleavy and the Ypsilanti Bureau of the ANN ARBOR NEWS.

TRAIN TRIP TO DURAND on MAY 5th still has space for reservations and is a great improvement on the previous two years' itinerary: a shorter bus ride, and a longer train ride. Last minute reservations may still be available by phone: 482-6371.

MAY 26th STEAMBOAT TRIP can carry only 42 passengers, due to Coast Guard regulations. (See article).

EARLY ENGINE EXPO: Members of the Greenfield Village Early Engine Club have been invited to show off their antique technology in the newly-cleared track area behind the Caboose for this August's Heritage Festival.

CABOOSE REHAB POSTPONED: Recent extra expenses for the billboards have used up that portion of the treasury set aside for fixing the Caboose. Repairs will be deferred until profits from the Train and Steamboat trips are realized.

TIGER BALL GAME date was sold out. Only general admission tickets were available. A new block of fifty seats, bus, etc., will be announced later. Watch this space. Then watch the scoreboard at Tiger Stadium. Depot Town will be there.

INSURANCE: Mark Kotter, of Finn's JM&J Insurance announced that he is replacing Greg Hochradel as the Association's representative. DTA carries policies for Liquor Bond, Liability, and a variety of Health Insurance plans with that company. Many district businesses also carry personal contents, personal liability, workers' compensation, fire and auto and health policies with Finn's. Mark is president of the Whitmore Lake Chamber of Commerce and plans to become another active Depot Towner, now that he has joined our business community.

PRONTO WINDOW: Rick Slate, of Pronto Pizza, has volunteered his show windows to DTA for neighborhood promotions. What else could a pizza shop put in their window? DDA's tower project is already exhibited there. More visual promotions will follow, thanks to Rick's offer.

AND EVERYTHING NICE announced new extended hours beginning in May. (See "Ragtime")

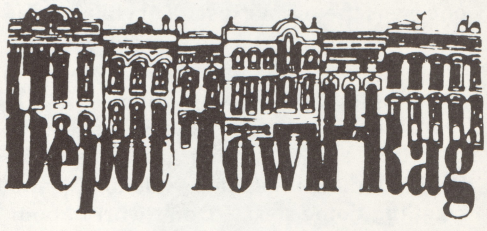
APPOINTMENTS: In concurrance with the recently adopted DTA constitution, President Gary McKeever announced the following committee appointments who will serve on the board of directors, along with the elected officers:

-PROGRAM: Bonnie Rosen-Fine
-HOUSE: Jerry Meadows,
-PUBLIC RELATIONS: Tom Dodd,
-BUDGET & EVENTS: Carolyn McKeever.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD: to whomever questioned the liability of the unused rail yard tracks and had them removed from the neighborhood. No rail freight will ever reach the Freight House again!

BEST YET AWARD: To Pronto Pizza's Rick Slate for the donation of forty dozen eggs for the Easter party.

ADJOURNED 9:00 P.M.



A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.
Gary McKeever, president
(DTA: The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)
Annual dues:
Associate member..... $ 10
Regular member ..... $ 25
Sustaining member..... $100

CITY RADIATOR
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THE HEALTH EMPORIUM
"To your good health"
FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

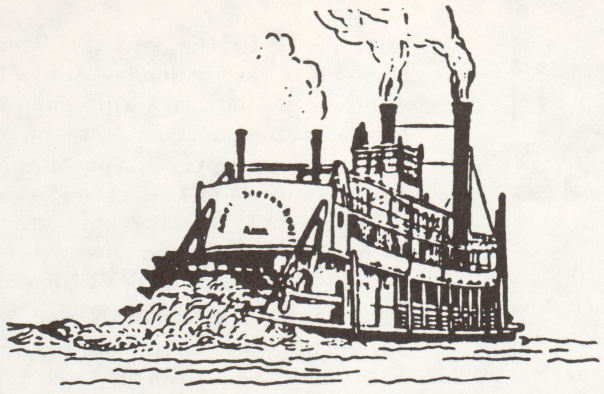
PRONTO
PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
483-4555
SUN-THU 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2
Free Delivery
on orders over $4.00

LONG VIEW FROM THE FREIGHT HOUSE

There are *railfans* and there are *railroaders.* Most of us in Depot Town fall into the first category: buying tickets to ride "specials" such as this month's trip to Durand's Railroad Days. But Ron Howell is not going on that railfan trip. He's a railroader. Ron sits in the Freight House Coffee Shop on Saturday mornings and remembers the old days. Ron usually tries to get a seat somewhere between Estelle's coffee pot and the piano so he can see the same views he has known since 1959 – when he worked for the New York Central. That's where his desk stood when he was the freight clerk here. Ron could look out across freight agent Bud Daniels' desk, out the windows and across the tracks to the Greek Revival Norris House where he lived. Several years later, NYC moved their offices across the tracks and into the Depot. Still later, NYC became Penn Central and now it's all Conrail - and Ron's new office is out in the middle of a field in Willow Run. Thanks goodness for Saturday mornings in Depot Town.

PLANTING TIME IN DEPOT TOWN

The many planters,flower pots and flower beds around the neighborhood are awaiting your loving care once again. No one owns them. We just all act like we do. If you're looking for a fun summer project, stake out one of your favorite areas and start digging. Cleaning out last year's crop, spading up the earth, fertilizing, planting and watering are just the beginning. Weeding, picking and smelling come next. Don't worry about credit. You can accomplish just about anything you want – as long as you don't worry about who gets the credit. Actually, everybody gets the benefit – and you'll be surprised how many new friends you'll make while you're out on the sidewalk taking care of your new project. Maybe you can get them to help?



DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION STERNWHEEL STEAMBOAT MOONLIGHT CRUISE (and Hot Dog Roast)

On Ohio's Beautiful Maumee River

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1985

Ride the SHAWNEE PRINCESS as it plies the placid waters of the historic Maumee River, affording her passengers a glimpse of the river as it looked when Mad Anthony Wayne roamed the area. The SHAWNEE PRINCESS is docked near the intersection of US-23 and the Maumee River and is available for private charter to the Depot Town Association on Sunday, May 26, 1985 to support the Depot Town Rag.

This sternwheeler, patterned after the Western Rivers steamboats which played a major part in opening the American West, is 60 feet from bow to stern, with a beam of 11 feet and a draft of less than 2 feet. She is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry 42 passengers.

Passengers of all ages are encouraged to take a turn at the magnificent 4-foot brass wheel. Those of a mechanical turn of mind will delight in her authentic hand-crafted steam engines and all will be charmed by her antique brass gauges and other equipment. Remember to bring your camera so you can take pictures of your family piloting the steamboat.

The SHAWNEE PRINCESS is berthed in a portion of the old Miami and Erie Canal in Providence Park, a Toledo Metropark opposite Grand Rapids, Ohio. The functioning 1836 water-powered Ludwig Mill is a short stroll down the canal towpath from the steamboat landing.

4:00 P.M. Bus leaves DTA Caboose
-Grand Rapids, Ohio
-Shawnee Princess departs dock
-One-hour cruise upstream
-Hot Dog Roast at Woodyard's Landing
-One-hour moonlight cruise downstream
-Bus leaves Grand Rapids
9:30 P.M. arrive DTA Caboose

RESERVATIONS: at $25.00 ea.
Total:$

To: Depot Town Association Inc.
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different

COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES
54 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Rrefinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

THE GRAND TRUNK LTD.
CARDS, GIFTS & STITCHERY
MON - SAT 10 - 5
15 E. CROSS STREET

BIG BOB'S
MAGAZINE AND FANTASY EMPORIUM
50 East Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(313) 485-4930
• Comics (old and new)
• Magazines
• Paperbacks
• Celebrity Posters & Buttons
• Candy, Pop, & Cigarettes
• Gaming Supplies (D & D)
Hours: Mon-Thurs 12-6 pm. Fri. 12-7 pm. Sat. 10-6 pm
Closed Sun.

482-0489
23 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Now and Then
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
Buy — Sell — Trade
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

OLD TOWN COIN & GOLD has erected their lovely, new sign above their front show window and, with its matallic gold letters, has got to be the lovliest painted sign on the street. A recent trip through Tecumseh, Michigan impressed us with the result of their recent sign ordinance: all, flat, painted, wall-mounted signs in their downtown shopping district make a most pleasant vista.

and everything nice

Clothing
Gifts

Toys
Books

THE KIDS' SHOP IN DEPOT TOWN
27 East Cross
483-6925

AND EVERYTHING NICE extends their business hours beginning May 20 by being open until 8 P.M. on weeknights, from 9 to 5 on Saturday and Sunday hours, as well.

a non-profit business serving depot town

YPSI FOOD COOP
312 N. RIVER 483-1520
open: Sun. 12 - 4 Mon. - Fri. 10 - 7 Sat. 9 - 6

THE YPSI FOOD CO-OP also celebrates its tenth anniversary this month and has doubled their membership since moving to Depot Town. They now have close to 800 members, thanks to all of you who have joined and supported the group.

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons

Miller's
ICE CREAM

Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes

42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7546
"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.

CHEF IN THE HOUSE, next to Miller's is, at long last, undergoing full-scale interior remodeling. The plaster is gone. The papers are off the windows and passers-by can peek in at their weekly progress.

RAGTIME

"down between the river and the railroad tracks"

DOWN IN DEPOT TOWN

RAGTIME space such as this is dedicated to the "little news" on the block for both our advertisers and our friends. The fact that you're reading it proves that others will too. If you haven't gotten your short copy into the Caboose by the third Thursday, your're missing an excellent opportunity to inform people who are interested in Depot Town and in your business.

DEPOT TOWN / 1878:

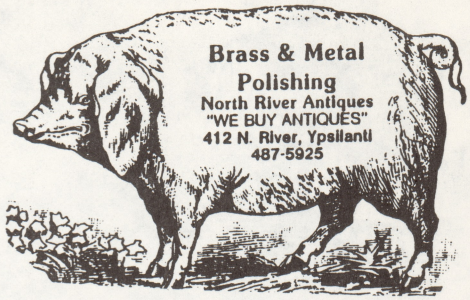
January 5th - "FIRE at the DEPOT. Four wooden stores were destroyed, for a loss of $28,000. George Carr's building and Saloon - $2000. William L. Grossman's restaurant - no insurance. S.V. Wright's building - $2000; William Grossman's Drug Store - $1200; J.H. Samson -$2500; Farmer's Store - $12,000 loss $3000. Dr. Parminio Davis' store and goods - $3500, loss $2000. The McRoberts House, Martin and Cramer removed their goods."

April 6th - "A portion of the wooden awning on the front of the Follett House has been removed."

1878 Advertisers from Depot Town:
- H.P. Glover Dry Goods and Carpets
- Spencer & Fairchild "First Class Meat Market"
- Pioneer Drug Store, opposite the Depot
- Gent's Furnishings - Follett House Block
- Mrs. M.S. Davis - Millinery, Ladies Underwear

June 30 - "William H. Vanderbilt has secured control of the Michigan Central Railroad. A special train containing the great magnate passed thru there last Tuesday bound for Chicago."

MILLER MOTORS has mounted two new/old neon signs in their west-facing window. "Hudson" and "Terraplane".



NORTH RIVER ANTIQUES' print was too small last month, but we loved the pig and ran it anyway. They specialize in Brass and Metal polishing and are at 412 North River Street. Watch for their new copy in June.

PRINTING

PRINTING

Hansen's
STANDARD PRINTING
35 E. Cross
483-0339
Historic Depot Town

PRINTING

PRINTING

STANDARD PRINTING continues their active renovation with a second rust-colored awning in front and a new paint job in the print shop. The previous green paint job was done by Loren Jr. when he was in high school - back in 1954! Notice the masterful restoration going on in their center front entrance: New door, sidelights and a transom. What an elegant new facade that will be.

Jim MacDonald's
Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

JAMES MACDONALD'S ANTIQUES & APPLE ANNIE'S VINTAGE CLOTHING have completed their extensive interior remodeling with the help of Hinchberger, Mertz, Talbot and Company. With all new interior walls, the installation of antique light fixtures and a variety of exhibition possibilities, their classy old merchandise should be shown off to the very best advantage. Stop in and congratulate them on their excellent new interior plan. It's worthy of placement at Briarwood–if Briarwood was only interested.